First Congregational
United Church of Christ

111 S. Wallace Blvd. Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(Mailing Address: P.O. Box 980413 Ypsilanti, MI 48198)
www.ypsiucc.org

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

May 22, 2022
10:00 am

“Communion Christianity”
Sixth Sunday of Eastertide

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,
You are welcome here!

WORSHIP ON ZOOM -- Zoom opens at 9:30 am Sunday morning.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7643282234

Meeting ID: 764 328 2234
Passcode: Ypsi1882
To join by phone, dial the number, 1-312-626-6799

- Welcome to Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC's Zoom Worship Service
- Hymns are included in the worship bulletin. A separate hymnal is not needed.
- If you are joining worship for the first-time on Zoom, please add your name and email to the chat so the Zoomie Greeter can introduce you.
- Thank you for choosing to worship with us today!

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT OF
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identifies and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions. All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe, nurturing community of faith. We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

a just world for all
ucc.org

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Start Zoom Recoding to Cloud **JOSHUA CATANIA**

"Come Christians, Join to Sing by Christian Bateman

RINGING THE BELL **MARTY KLEINO**

WELCOME **IVAN HARNER**

A warm welcome to all, including first-time visitors.

- As stated in our Open and Affirming Covenant (previous page), all persons are welcome in this community of faith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS **IVAN HARNER**

- **COMMUNITY SHARING OF OTHER ANNOUNCMENTS:**
  - The Worship Leader will introduce Roomie Greeter, **Donna Eyster**, and Zoomie greeter, **Dan Kidder-McQuon**.
  - The Greeters will introduce folks participating in worship.
  - Please share your announcements so everyone can learn what is happening in our beloved ministry community.
  - If you are a Roomie, please come to the pulpit/podium to make your announcement or use the handheld microphone offered by the Roomie Greeter so all can hear. Please do the same when offering a prayer request.
  - Please submit written announcements to Margaret Harner, Worship Coordinator, margaretsharner@gmail.com, by midnight on Tuesday.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN *Microphone muted *Standing is optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Sing to God"
23 SING

CALL TO WORSHIP (Unison) **IVAN HARNER**

As we come together this morning, in person and virtually, let's remember that we are much more than a collection of individual organisms.

Let's try to connect to a sense that we are also a powerful collective force for love and for doing

God's work in the world.

Let's remind ourselves and each other of that force, especially when we find those many things we have in common as human beings.

God is very much with us.

HYMN *Microphone muted *Standing is optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Liberator of All Nations"
20 ES

LISTENING FOR GOD

FIRST READING **WeROC Vision Statement** **IVAN HARNER**

WeROC's vision is to use our organizing process for the purpose of creating opportunities for more people of color, lower income residents, and youth to participate at the tables where decisions affecting them and the broader community are made; that together we are developing effective strategies for dismantling the structures that stubbornly maintain injustice, racism, and economic inequality in our area.

SECOND READING **Matt 18:19** **TAD WYSOR**

Again I tell you, if two of you on earth join in agreement to pray for anything whatsoever, it will be granted you by Abba God in heaven. Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in their midst.

HYMN *Microphone muted *Standing is optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Shall We Gather at the River"
597 NCH

MORNING MESSAGE **"Communion Christianity"** **TAD WY**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pause Zoom recording

*Zoomies: Please turn on your microphone

*Roomies: Please come to the pulpit/podium or use the hand-held microphone so all can hear.

..

You are invited to share your joys and petitions for prayer.
Please unmute your microphone to share a joy or make a prayer of petition.
At the end of each joy or petition, please say **"God in your mercy"**
We will respond (with microphones muted) **"Hear our prayers"**

PASTORAL PRAYER *Restart Zoom recording **TAD WYSOR**

DISCIPLES' PRAYER (Unison) *Microphone muted **TAD WYSOR**

Gracious Spirit, who loves us like a mother.
Whose realm is blooming among us now. And within.
We pray that our compassion guides us in every action.
Give us what we need for each day
And helps us be satisfied with the miracle of that alone.
Forgiver, whose embrace brings us to wholeness without our asking,
May we reconcile ourselves to one another in humility.
May we cancel the crushing debts that imprison our neighbors
So that communities of joy and health may flourish.
May we neither profit from nor ignore evil,
But ever work to thwart it with nonviolence as we co-create the realm of peace in this world.
Now and each day. Amen

OFFERING

OFFERTORY INVITATION **TAD WYSOR**

Our electronic giving platform is Tithe.ly: Link to Tithe.ly

Please place in-person offerings in the gold offertory plate on the table by the door.

Checks can be mailed to:
First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERTORy **"All People that on Earth Do Dwell"** **JOSHUA CATANIA**
by Louis Bourgeois

DOXOLOGY *Microphone muted *Standing is optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**
"Take My Gifts" v.2 562 NCH

Take the fruits that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
Harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
Spiced with humor, laced with laughter, flavor of the Jesus life,
Tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison) with Microphone muted **IVAN HARNER**

Generous God, please leverage our small gifts into powerful actions bringing us closer to each other, closer to peace and justice, and closer to you. Amen

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

CLOSING HYMN *Microphone muted *Standing is optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**
"Peace I Leave With You, My Friends"
NCH 249

BENEDICTION (Unison) **TAD WYSOR**

God, as we leave one another and go out into the world, we pray we will notice the reminders from you:
-That although we may go in different directions today, we are really very much together,
-That we, and all living things we encounter, belong to something bigger,
-And that you are with us not only in our personal journeys,
but also in the work we do collectively to build the world you dream of.
Amen.

POSTLUDE *Please remain seated **JOSHUA CATANIA**

"Amazing Grace" by John Newton

PASSING THE PEACE **FRIENDS GATHERED**

Share a greeting with others as we transition to our casual **Friendship Time.**

Hybrid (In-person & Zoom) Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Rev. Liz Larrivee, Pastor & Spiritual Director
Tiffanie Waldron, Music Director
Joshua Catania, Accompanist

Tad Wysor, Guest Preacher
Jenn Zibbell, Seminary Intern
Ivan Harner, Worship Leader
Donna Eyster, Roomie Greeter
Dan Kidder-McQuon, Zoomie Greeter
Marty Kleino, Usher & Bell Ringer
Melanie Harner, Technical Coordinator
Donna Eyster, Covid Health Advisor

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734-482-6980
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ATTRIBUTIONS FOR TODAY'S BULLETIN

- **Cover Art:** Luke Thonton, Unsplash
- **Call to Worship, Prayer of Dedication and Benediction:** Tad Wysor
- **Disciples Prayer:** *In the Spirit of Jesus – Theology, Liturgy, and Songs Without Violence* by Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer & Brett Hesla; Wipf & Stock (2004)
- **Hymn Profiles:** *The New Century Hymnal Companion.* Pilgrim Press 1999.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you, Tad- for preaching today. Sharing your faith, commitment and creativity with our faith community are very appreciated.

Worship next week: Donna Eyster will preach for us next week. Thank you, Donna, we look forward to your message and sharing your faith and gifts with us. Worship Leader; Patty Sherwood; Jenn Zibbell, Greeter.

Pastor Liz Is On Vacation May 18 – May 31. Pastor Liz is on vacation for 2 weeks beginning May 18 through May 31. During this time, please contact Donna Eyster with any pastoral care needs or pastoral emergencies. Donna will contact me in the event of a pastoral emergency. Thank you Donna!

Our Discernment Work in This Liminal Season: Thanks to everyone who participated in our Lenten/Easter Community Discernment Book Study. God is still speaking. . . and we are listening and discerning.

For several weeks on Monday nights, beginning June 13 via Zoom from 7:00-8:00, Pastor Liz will be leading us in doing the in-depth work in Chapter 6: "Purpose = Identity + Context + Values". We will engage in the liminal season work described in Chpt 6 (pgs 113-131) on clarifying our congregational purpose, identity, context, and values**.** It will be helpful preparation to re-read Chapter 6 before we will begin this in-depth conversation to weave together the key take-aways from both the Sunday and Tuesday book study groups.

Pastor Liz's Summer Schedule: Between June 1 and September 15, Pastor Liz will be pastoring remotely from Traverse City as outlined in her call agreement.

During this time, please continue to let her know of your pastoral care needs and/or pastoral care emergencies. The best way to reach her is via text and/or phone call. (734-358-6108). In the event of a pastoral care emergency, Pastor Liz will return to Ypsilanti to provide support.

Sunday worship will be on Zoom-only May 29 through September. This information has been added to our church website.

Fall Hybrid Worship Kick-Off Sunday: September 18. Combined Zoom and in- person worship will resume in our sanctuary on Sunday, September 18 at 10:00 am.

Fall Pet Blessing Ceremony: September 25 at 2:00 pm: This fun family and pet friendly service will be held outdoors (weather permitting) in the park next to the church. UCC Member in Discernment (MID) and Seminary Intern, Jenn Zibbell, is team leader for this service. Please contact Jenn if you would like to help with planning and hosting. More details will be announced over the summer.

Kroger Fundraiser: Have you registered your Kroger card? We get a small check every quarter for purchases made using your card when it's registered. It's a simple process. Go to Kroger.com and click "**Register**" and follow the prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83262**, or you can find our name in the drop-down list. Any Questions: contact Barbara Garland at bargarland@yahoo.comor 734-662-5803

Exciting news from WeROC: During the month of May, WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition), one of our outreach ministries, has been providing virtual events to give all of us, and the wider community, the opportunity to learn more about the 4 WeROC initiatives identified as priorities for the coming year.

The final virtual event is this Tues., May 24th (details below).

- **May 24, 6:30-7:30 – School Expulsions, State Senator Jeff Irwin & Peri Stone-Palmquist, Student Advocacy Center.**

Click here to register.

OUR CHURCH'S MISSIONS

THE BEACON CENTER

The **Beacon Center** is the newest community social justice of the Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC. As a light to all persons, the Beacon Center's ministry will support the spiritual formation, creative expression, overall thriving and advocacy of at-risk students of all ages, including those affiliated with three primary local institutions of higher learning: Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College and University of Michigan. In the Spirit of the UCC moto, "That They All Shall Be One", Beacon Center serves as a uniting and unifying umbrella across our congregation serving persons sources through our three other community social justice ministry networks. Those ministries (each detailed below) include WICIR (Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights) serving the immigrant communities, MI-ONA (Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition) serving LGTBQ+ persons, and WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition) which brings together faith, labor and community organizations to address local issues.

The Beacon Center is committed to advocate for self-determination and education for all people, especially students living in poverty, persons of color experiencing racism, and other de-humanizing circumstances and conditions. Beacon Center's student demographics include persons of color, immigrants, minorities, LGTBQ+ folk, women, those with special needs, the economically disadvantaged, those facing housing insecurity, the financially challenged, and the working poor. For additional information on the Beacon Center, please contact Rev. Liz Larrivee at lizlarrivee@gmail.com

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY – WASHTENAW INTERFAITH COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS (WICIR)

Since 2008, **WICIR** has been working with, and in support of, immigrants in Washtenaw County facing challenges of many kinds. At our inception the primary need that brought us together was to support people facing enforcement action by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement); most often detention, deportation, and removal. To date, WICIR has responded to 650 calls. Always in partnership with folks most affected, many actions and services have evolved as identified by our immigrant siblings, while always keeping focused on our original mission:

To provide culturally sensitive and supportive urgent response to those in Washtenaw County in immigration-related crises; impact local governmental policies to empower and protect immigrant community members; and work toward humane national immigration reform.

Our outreach has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many in immigrant communities have experienced significant challenges as they struggle to pay rent, provide food for their families and other basic survival needs. To respond, WICIR, in partnership with Mexiquenses in Michigan (from St. Francis of Assisi Parish), has raised and distributed $200,000 relief funds to immigrants and their families. We have a waiting list of those still in need and will continue this effort as funds are available.

For information about what's happening with immigrant rights and **Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights**, or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Melanie Harner at melharner@gmail.com or through the WICIR website: https://wicir.org/. You can also find a link on the church website.

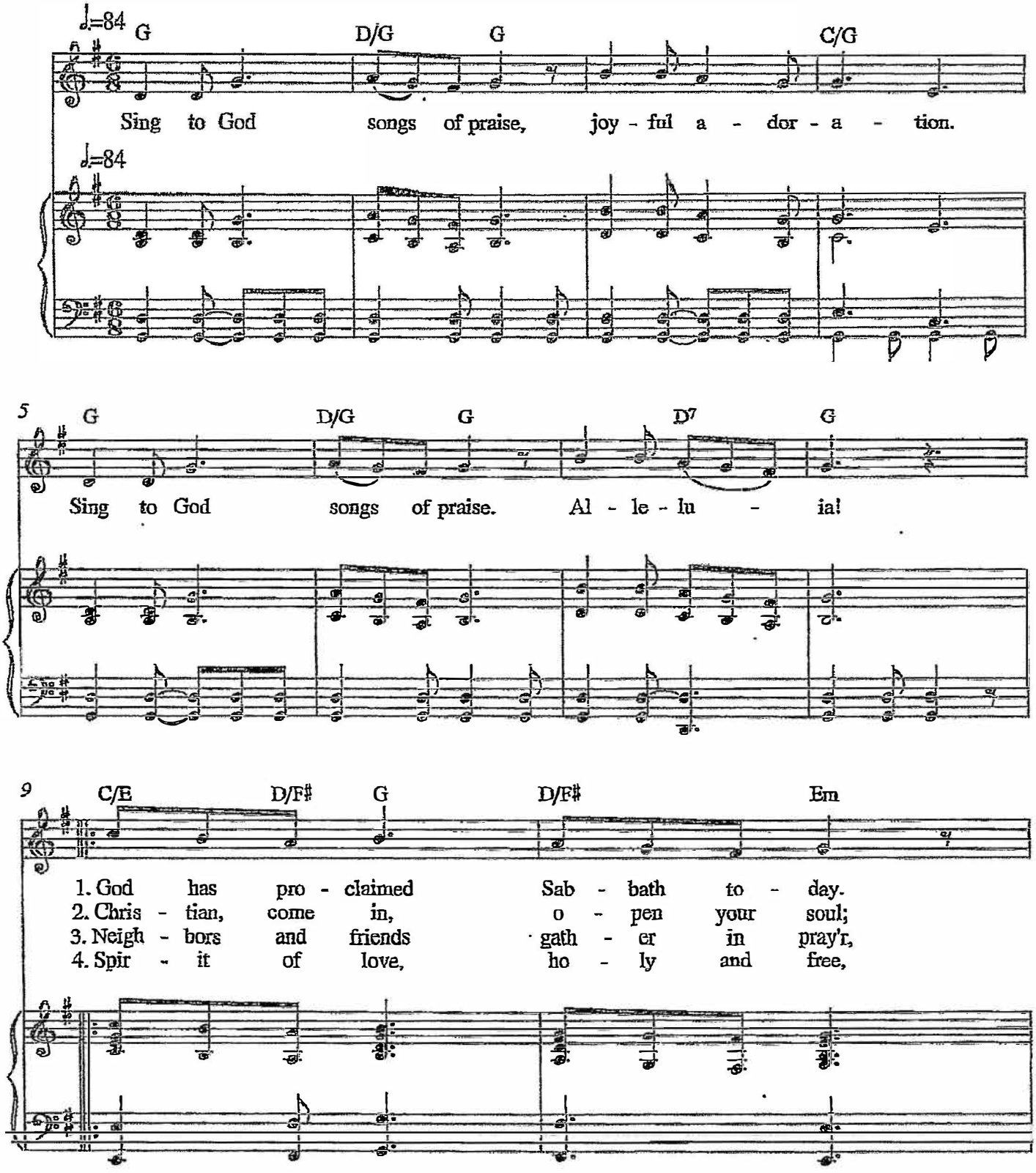
WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION

First Congregational is a founding institution of the local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition)**. In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. WeROC members are, at our core, focused on intentionally re-weaving the frayed fabric of community at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated. Especially in this time when so many are being hit by the health and economic crises, WeROC's focus on raising voices of those most affected is more important than ever (See COVID-19 Resources at www.werocmi.org) WeROC's Mission Statement is:

WeROC brings together faith, labor, community organizations, and individuals to build the healthy collective power needed to break down the systems that sustain injustice, racism, and economic inequality.

WeROC is affiliated with the Detroit Metro organization MOSES and the Gamliel National Network. Contact Tad Wysor at tadwysor@gmail.com or 734-883-3225.

This past election year showed us good things can happen when we're working together in the same direction. WeROC is moving rapidly **forward** to keep momentum going and find ways to continue to be more effective together in making our communities healthier and more vibrant places; improving the lives of *everyone* in big ways-- especially those who are most vulnerable and whose voice have seldom been heard.

Sing to God

Words and Music: James F. D. Martin, Copyright ©1996. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
This arrangement: The Praise Song Advisory Team, Copyright ©2009 Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Piano Arrangement: Thomas Fosnocht, Copyright ©2009. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

2

11 Am7 Gsus2/B Asus2/C♯ D D7 G

Let the friends of Je - sus say: Sing to God
God's pure love can make us whole.
grace to know and faith to share.
fill our hearts as ev - er we:

15 D/G G C/G

songs of praise, joy - ful a - dor - a - tion.

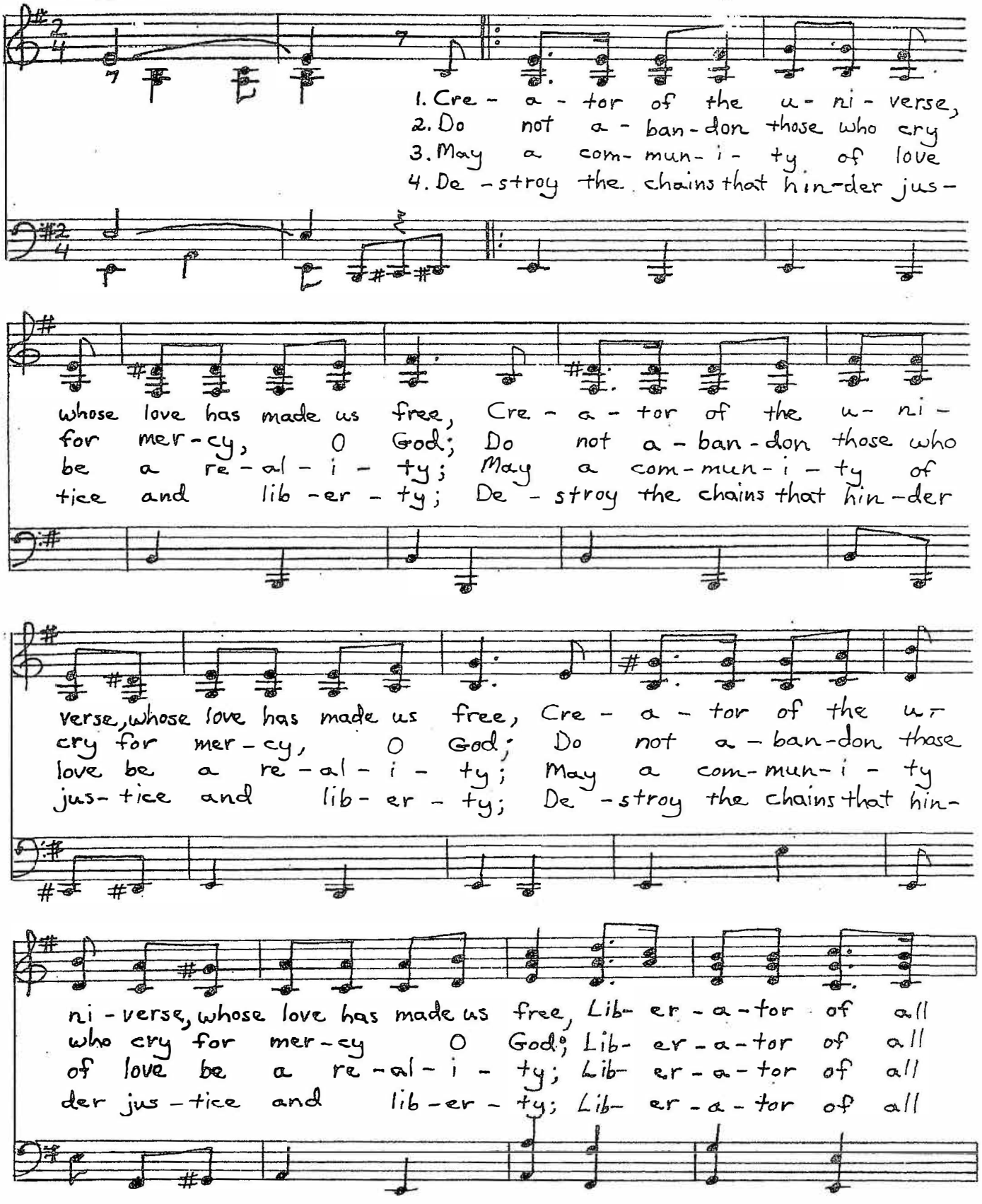
18 G D/G G D7 G

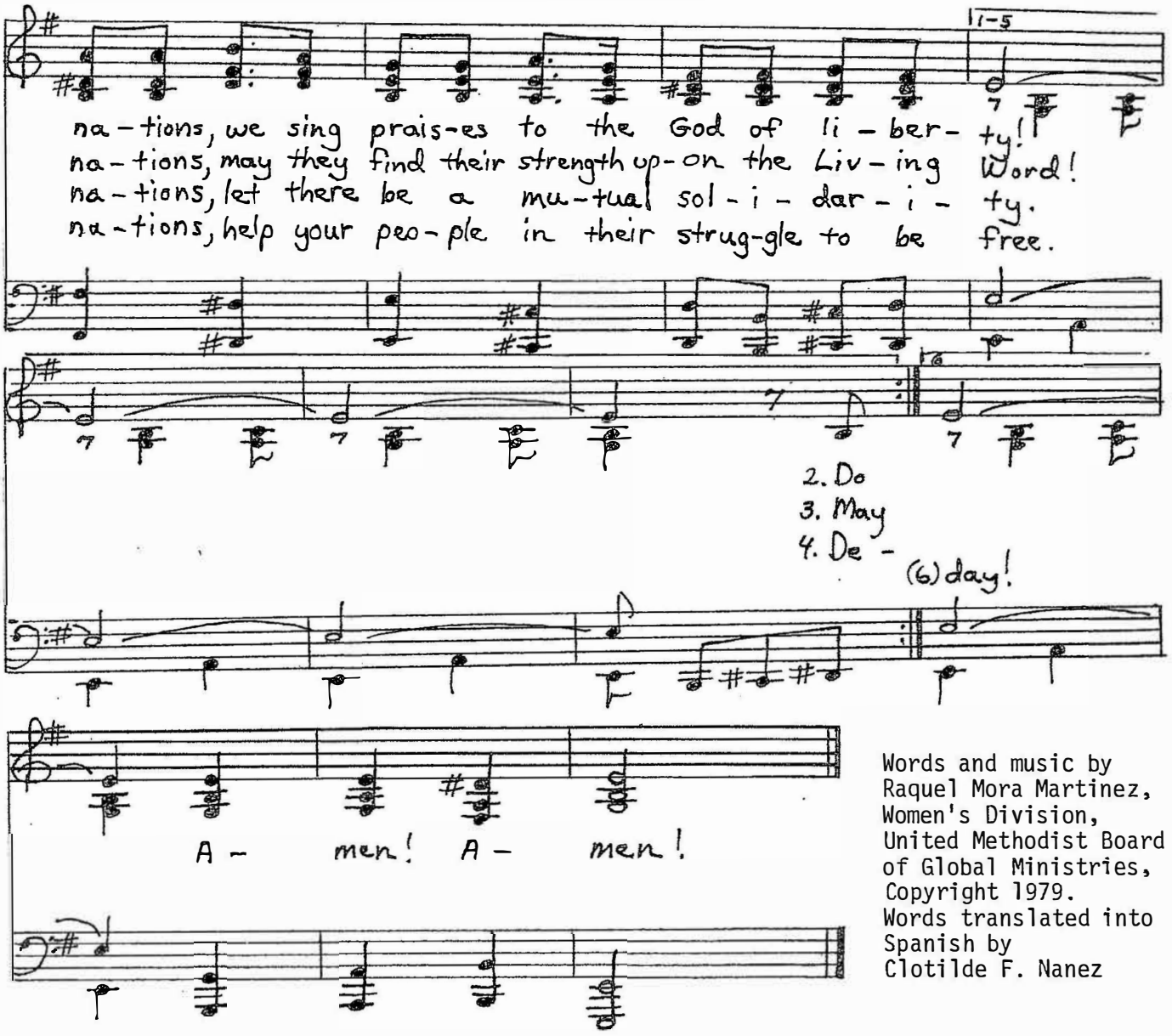
Sing to God songs of praise. Al - le - lu - ia!

20 Liberator of All Nations

Words and music by
Raquel Mora Martinez

Moderato


1. Cre - a - tor of the u - ni - verse,
2. Do not a - ban - don those who cry
3. May a com - mun - i - ty of love
4. De - stroy the chains that hin - der jus -
whose love has made us free, Cre - a - tor of the u - ni -
for mer - cy, O God; Do not a - ban - don those who
be a re - al - i - ty; May a com - mun - i - ty of
tice and lib - er - ty; De - stroy the chains that hin - der
verse, whose love has made us free, Cre - a - tor of the u -
cry for mer - cy, O God; Do not a - ban - don those
love be a re - al - i - ty; May a com - mun - i - ty
jus - tice and lib - er - ty; De - stroy the chains that hin -
ni - verse, whose love has made us free, Lib - er - a - tor of all
who cry for mer - cy O God; Lib - er - a - tor of all
of love be a re - al - i - ty; Lib - er - a - tor of all
der jus - tice and lib - er - ty; Lib - er - a - tor of all


1-5
na-tions, we sing prais-es to the God of li-ber-ty!
na-tions, may they find their strength up-on the Liv-ing Word!
na-tions, let there be a mu-tual sol-i-dar-i-ty.
na-tions, help your peo-ple in their strug-gle to be free.
2. Do
3. May
4. De-
(6) day!
A-men! A-men!

Words and music by
Raquel Mora Martinez,
Women's Division,
United Methodist Board
of Global Ministries,
Copyright 1979.
Words translated into
Spanish by
Clotilde F. Nanez

5. Your power and your glory manifest through us indeed; (3 times)
   Liberator of all nations, help us answer to the call of human need.
6. That we may be united in one spirit, we pray. (3 times)
   Liberator of all nations, make your presence known throughout the world
   this day. Amen! Amen!

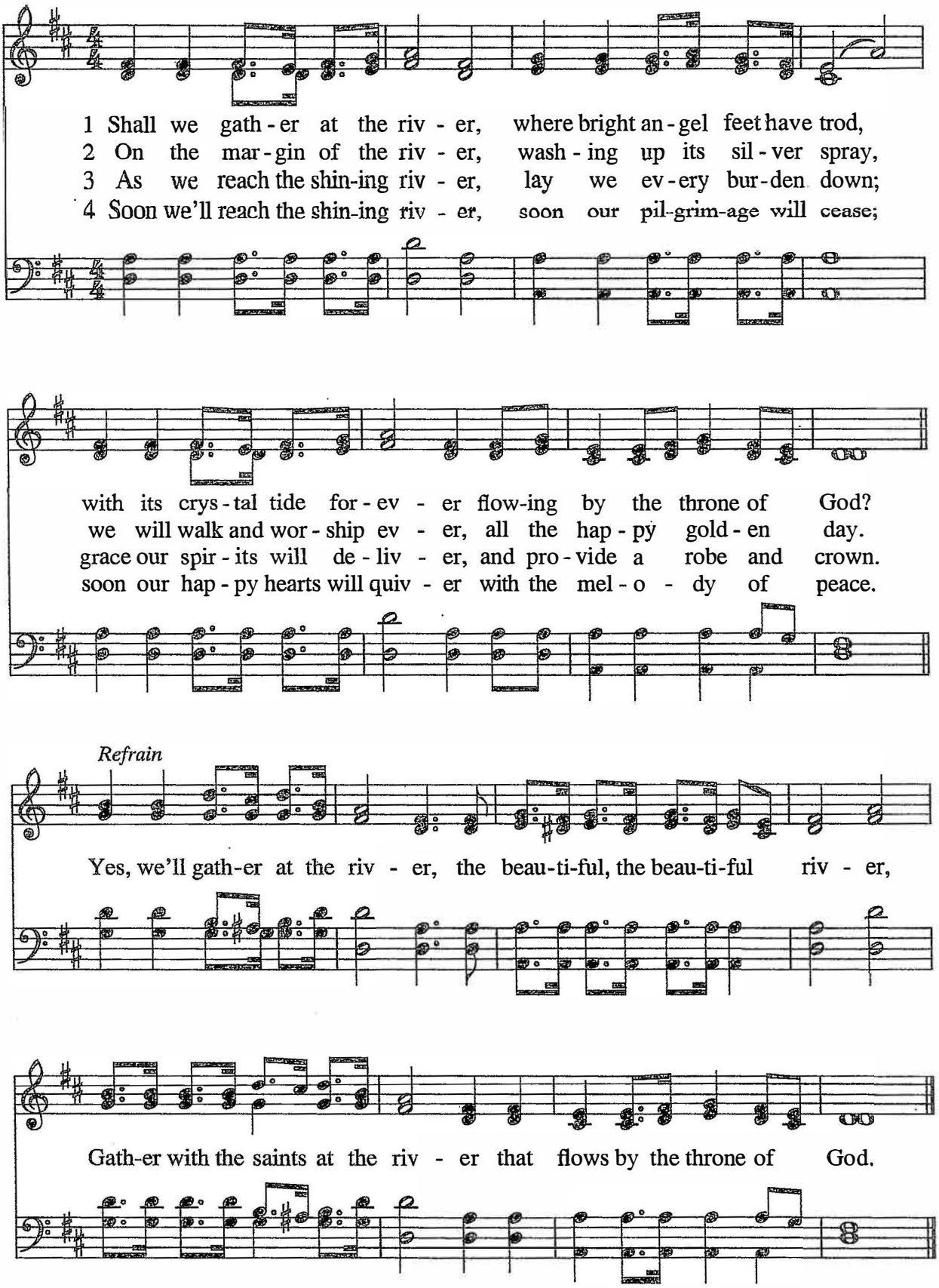
SPANISH TRANSLATION:

1. Creador del universo cuyo amor nos libertó (3 veces),
   Redentor de las naciones; damos preces al gran Dios de libertad.
2. No abandones a los que te imploran piedad (3 veces),
   Redentor de las naciones, que encuentren fortaleza en tu verdad.
3. Que una comunidad de amor sea una realidad (3 veces),
   Redentor de las naciones, que exista mutua solidaridad.
4. Destruye las cadenas que impiden libertad (3 veces),
   Redentor de las naciones, dá sostén al que anhela libertad.
5. Tu fuerza y tu gloria manifiesta en nuestra acción (3 veces),
   Redentor de las naciones, que al que sufre ayudemos con amor.
6. Que nos unámos es espiritu, es nuestra oración (3 veces),
   Redentor de la naciones, manifiéstate a tu pueblo por doquiér. Amen. Amen.

Shall We Gather at the River

597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1–5

1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;
with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.
Refrain
Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,
Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

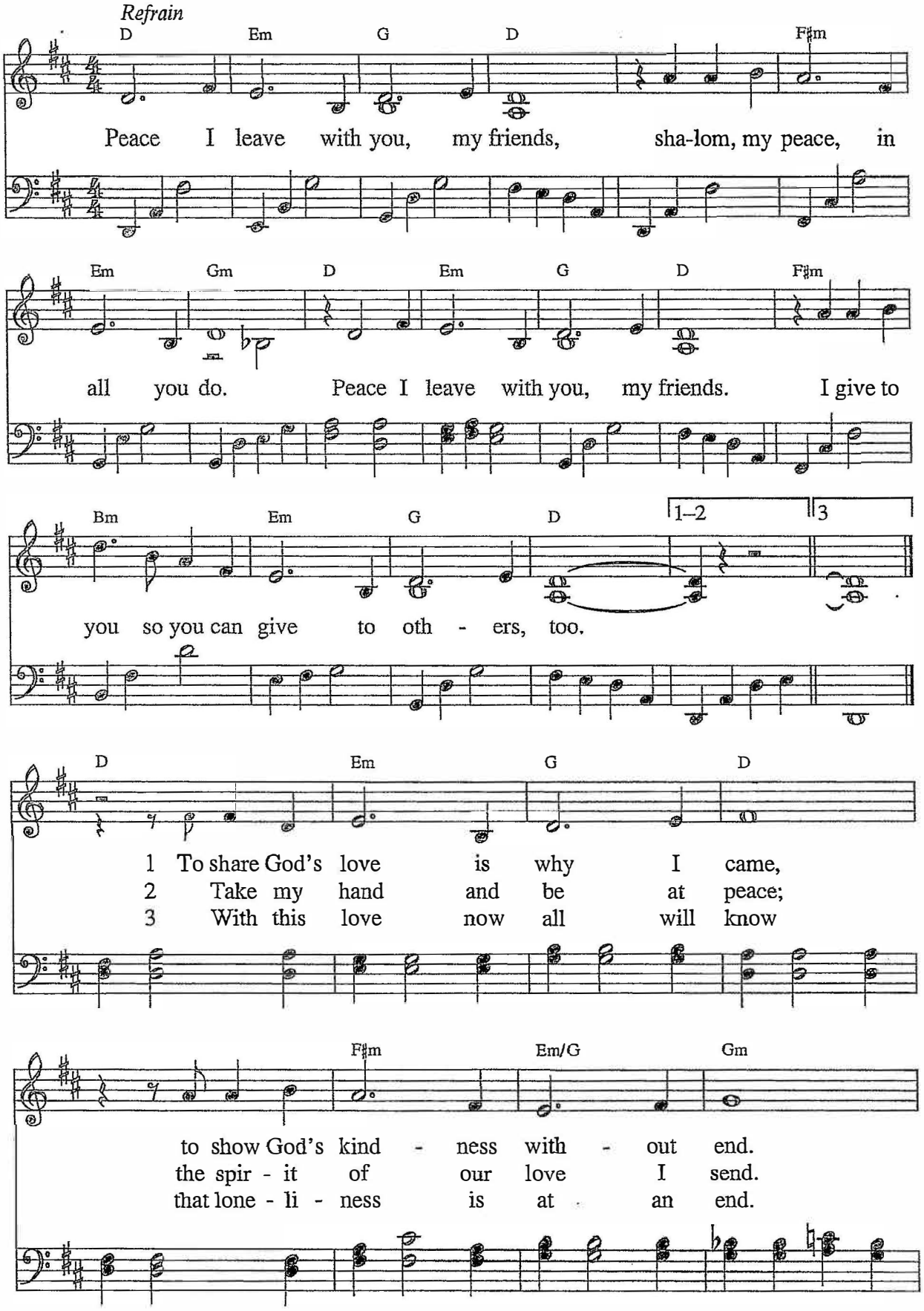
Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7. with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

1/2

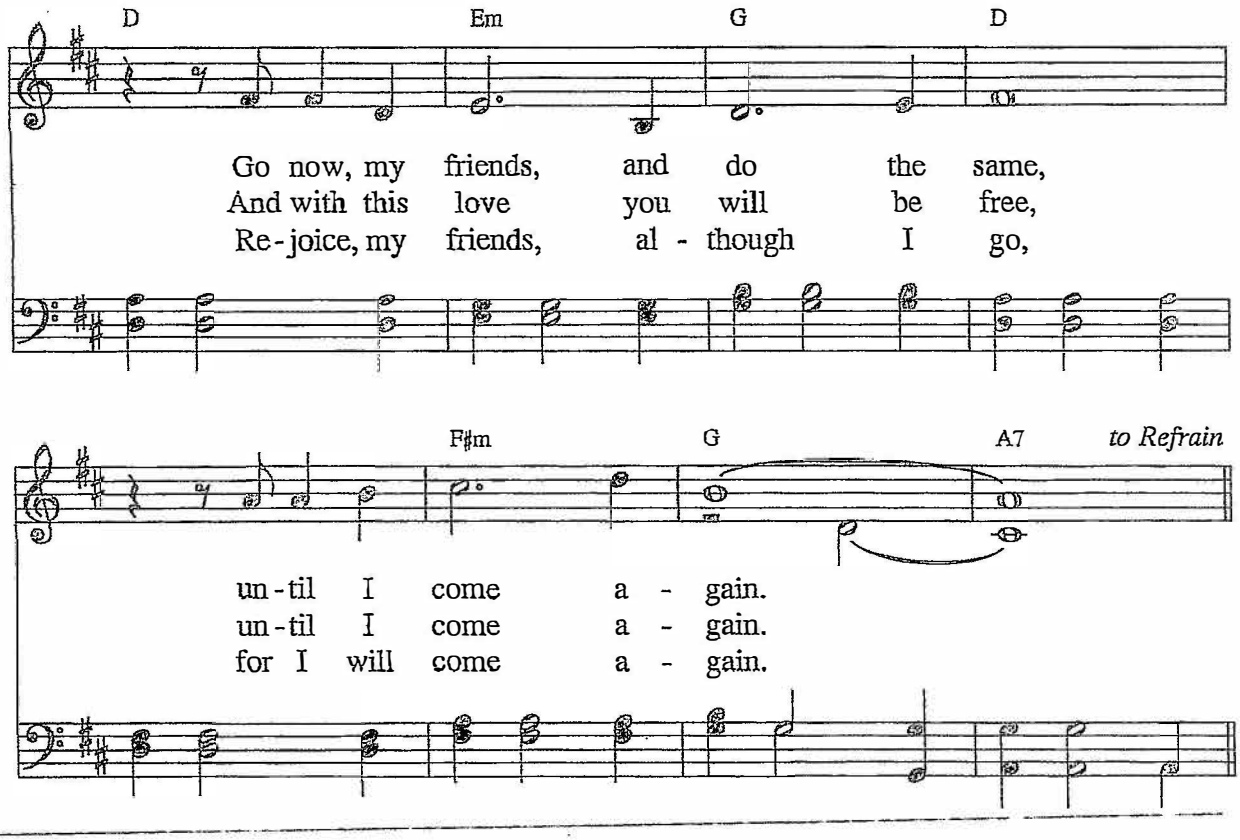
249 Peace I Leave with You, My Friends

John 14:18–29

Ray Repp, 1967

Refrain
D Em G D F♯m
Peace I leave with you, my friends, sha-lom, my peace, in
Em Gm D Em G D F♯m
all you do. Peace I leave with you, my friends. I give to
Bm Em G D 1–2 3
you so you can give to oth - ers, too.
D Em G D
1 To share God's love is why I came,
2 Take my hand and be at peace;
3 With this love now all will know
F♯m Em/G Gm
to show God's kind - ness with - out end.
the spir - it of our love I send.
that lone - li - ness is at an end.

Songwriter Ray Repp has composed and recorded numerous albums of liturgical songs since 1965, when he introduced guitar into worship with his "Mass for Young Americans."

Tune: PEACE, MY FRIENDS Irr. with refrain
Ray Repp, 1967
Arr. The New Century Hymnal, *1994*


D
Em
G
D
Go now, my friends, and do the same,
And with this love you will be free,
Re-joice, my friends, al - though I go,
F♯m
G
A7
to Refrain
un-til I come a - gain.
un-til I come a - gain.
for I will come a - gain.